

# PRESS RELEASE

## Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

Fourteenth District, Michigan  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus

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### CONYERS INVITES VOINOVICH TO DIALOGUE ON PASSAGE OF EFFECTIVE RACIAL PROFILING LEGISLATION

Representative John Conyers, Jr., the Ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, commended Senator George Voinovich (R-OH) for entering the discussion on the elimination of racial profiling by law enforcement agencies with the introduction of legislation today in the Senate. Conyers said that, "By introducing federal legislation to address the issue, Senator Voinovich acknowledges the seriousness of racial profiling to minority communities and the need for effective, comprehensive legislation to end the practice. While we may differ on the initial approach, I look forward to working with him to pass meaningful legislation that will eliminate racial profiling as a law enforcement practice."

Conyers has been a champion in the fight against racial profiling since the 105<sup>th</sup> Congress. He observed that, "When I introduced data collection legislation in 1998, the phenomenon of driving while black was well known in the African-American and Latino communities, even though some tried to deny the validity of stories reported by those communities. However, as the litigation mounted and data was collected, it became obvious that the nation has a serious problem with the use of race by law enforcement. Today, we have moved beyond the mere need for voluntary data collection to prove the existence of the problem to a time when experts agree that comprehensive legislation is necessary to eliminate the practice and require implementation of corrective management policies."

Conyers introduced the "End Racial Profiling Act of 2001" (H.R. 2074), along with additional bipartisan cosponsors, to eliminate the practice of racial profiling and collect data to monitor the success of that effort. H.R. 2074 would require federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to cease practices that encourage racial profiling and adopt policies and procedures to eliminate racial profiling, including data collection, complaint and disciplinary procedures. The legislation would also authorize the Attorney General to provide grants for the development and implementation of best policing practices.